Feb. 20, 1962 K. E. V HUFFMAN 3,021,637

SUPPORT

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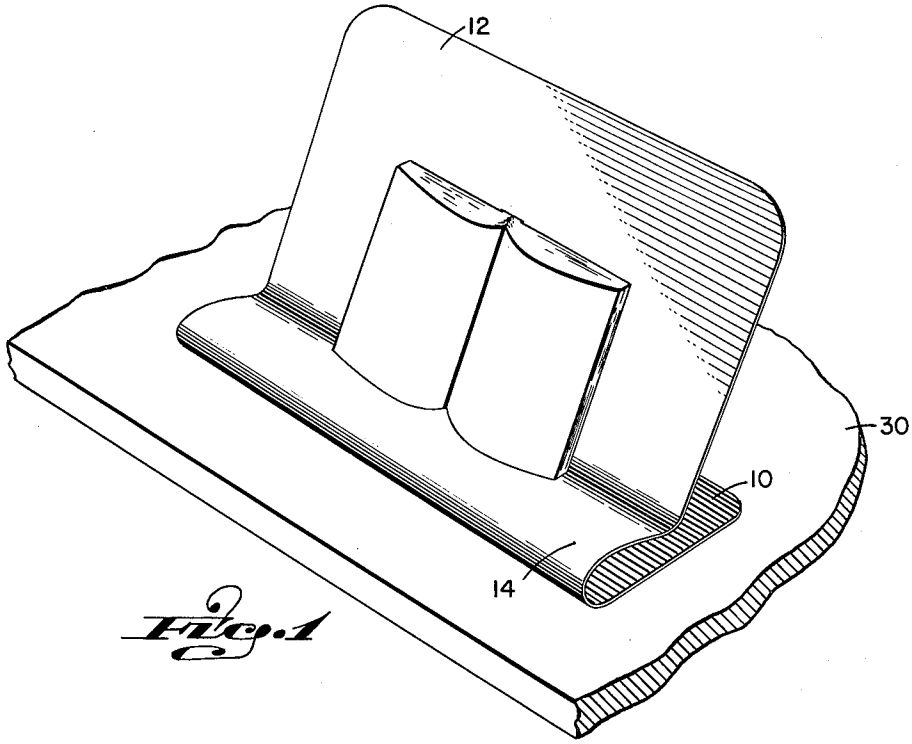


Fig. 1

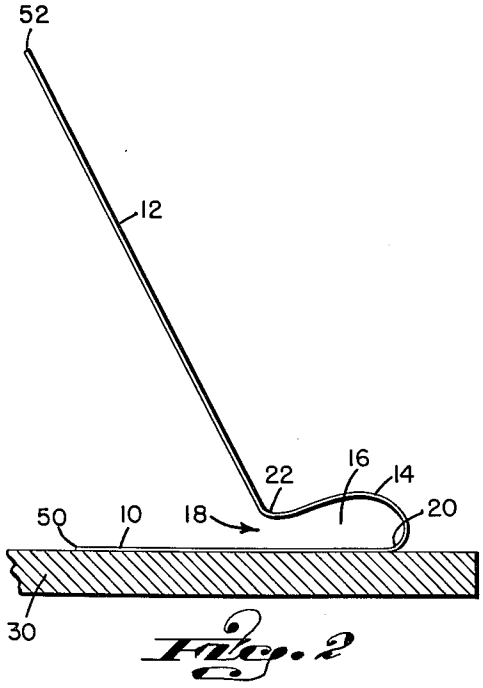


Fig. 2

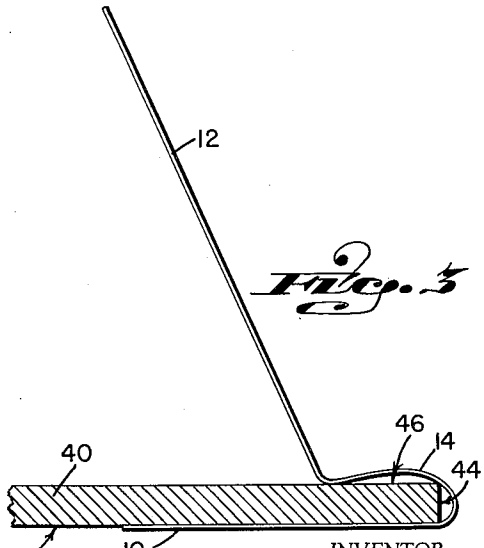


Fig. 3

INVENTOR.
KATHRYN E.V. HUFFMAN
BY J. Warren Kinney, Jr.
ATTORNEY

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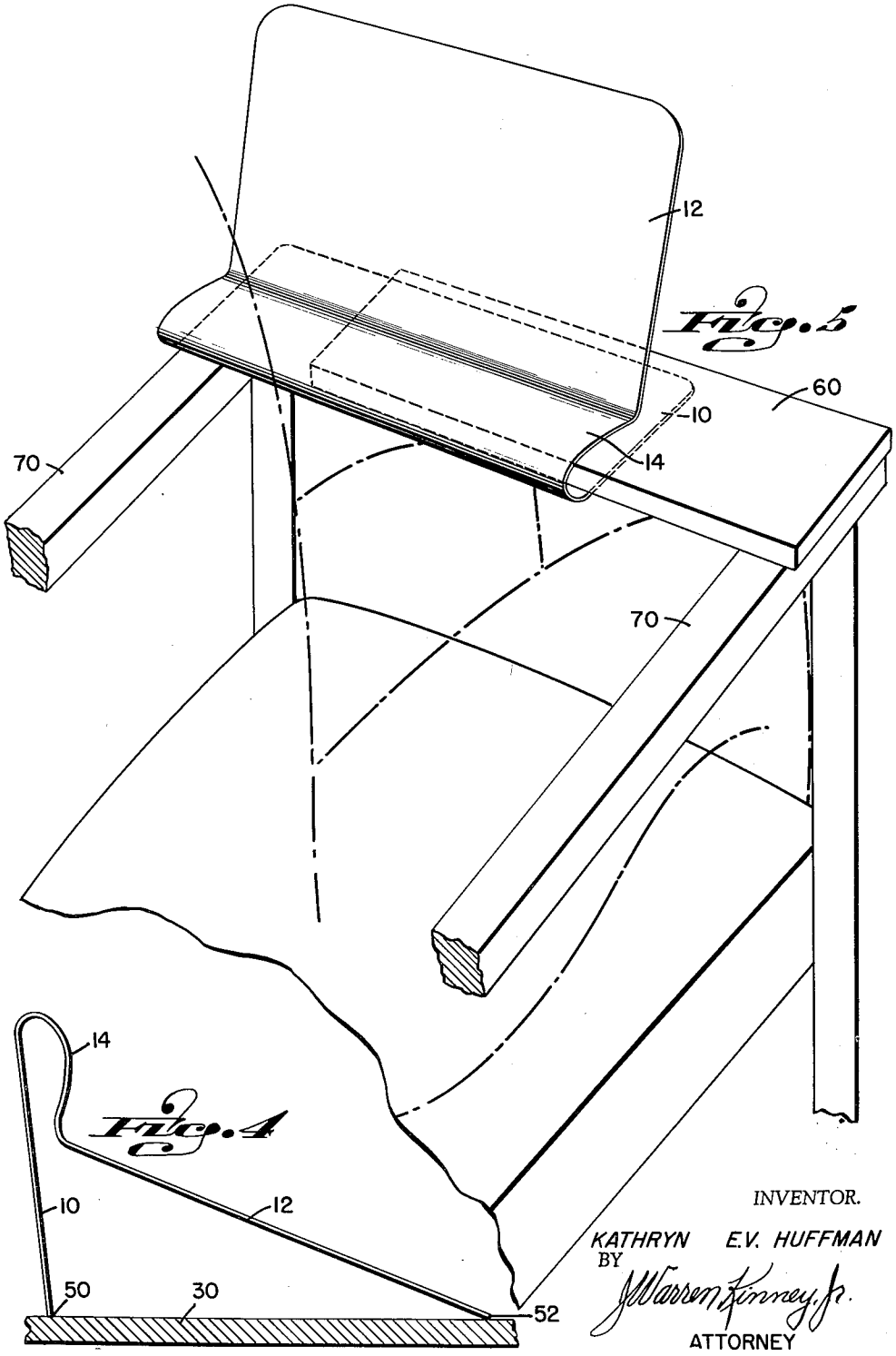


Fig. 5

Fig. 4

INVENTOR.
KATHRYN E.V. HUFFMAN
BY
J. Warren Kinney, Jr.
ATTORNEY

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SUPPORT

Kathryn E. V. Huffman, 1510 Sleepy Hollow Road, Covington, Ky.

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This invention relates to a support, and more particularly to a support or easel for reading matter.

An object of the invention is to provide a support having a pair of panels, fabricated from a single length of material, which support may be placed upon a flat supporting surface, or which may be securely though releasably clamped over the edge of a supporting shelf-like member, and which additionally is adapted to include a flat, rigid member which is slidably associated with the support for providing a flat writing or desk-like surface immediately adjacent and extending from an edge thereof.

These and other objects are attained by the means described herein, and as disclosed in the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a support embodying the teachings of the present invention, supported on a flat surface.

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2, illustrating the manner in which the support may be clamped over the edge of a supporting member.

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 2, illustrating another manner in which the support may be associated with a supporting surface.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the support device in conjunction with a flat, rigid, desk-forming member.

With particular reference to the drawings, the numerals **10** and **12** indicate generally a first and a second panel, the adjacent ends of which are interconnected by an intermediate panel **14** formed whereby to provide an elongated, open-ended channel **16** which includes an elongate, open-ended throat **18** remote from and in spaced parallelism with forward or adjacent edge **20** of panel **10**.

Panel **12** extends along the upper or open edge **22** of channel **16** in a direction outwardly and away from said first panel **10** for thereby providing an upwardly and rearwardly inclined supporting surface for a book, pamphlet, paper or the like whose lower edge rests upon intermediate portion **14**, of the upper portion of channel **16**.

As best illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the support may be positioned upon a substantially flat supporting surface **30** whereby first panel **10** will serve as a base for the device in the manner illustrated, with panel **12** in upwardly, rearwardly inclined relationship therewith.

In those instances in which it is desirable or necessary to secure the support to a member against accidental and/or unintentional displacement therefrom, such a member, denoted generally by the numeral **40** in FIG. 3, may be utilized for receiving channel **16**, in which event panel **10** will be disposed beneath and in underlying relationship with the under-surface **42** of member **40** and whereby intermediate portion **14** will project around outer edge **44** of member **40** and thence be disposed in overlying relationship with the upper surface **46** of said member. In this manner I have provided simple yet highly effective means for enabling the support to be securely though releasably associated with the edge of a table, desk or the like.

With reference now to FIG. 5, the numeral **60** denotes generally a flat, rigid board or element which is dimensioned whereby to be slidably received within the channelway **16** between intermediate panel **14** and panel **10**, for enabling element **60** to be telescopically associated with the support member. As illustrated in FIG. 5, element **60** provides a flat writing surface which extends from and to one side of the support member, said element enabling the support element to be mounted in spanning relationship between a pair of laterally spaced units such as **70** which are spaced apart by a dimension greater than the overall length of the support member.

Element **60** likewise permits the support member to be positioned upon the knees or in the lap of a user for providing a supporting surface suitable for use as a writing surface.

The material from which the subject support may be fabricated can be metal, plastic or the like, the only requirement being that the material be sufficiently resilient whereby to permit some flexing along the forward edge of the channel **16**.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the device may be utilized by locating end **50** of panel **10** upon a supporting surface **30** with end **52** of panel **12** also engaging supporting surface **30** whereby the material to be supported will be disposed at a lesser incline than when using the device as illustrated in FIG. 2.

It should be understood that various changes and modifications may be made in the structural details of the device, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A support fabricated from a single length of resilient sheet material bent upon itself to provide in its free form an elongate, open-ended channel having an open throat remote from and in spaced parallelism with an adjacent edge of a first panel such that a support member can be readily slidably received within said channel at all times, and a second panel along the open edge of said channel extending outwardly and away from said first panel at an acute angle thereto such that said second panel forms an inclined supporting surface for supporting a book or the like thereon in a convenient reading position.

2. A support fabricated from a single length of resilient sheet material bent upon itself to provide in its free form a first and a second panel interconnected along their adjacent edges by an open-ended, elongate channel which overlies said first panel and terminates in an open throat remote from and in spaced parallelism with the adjacent edge of said first panel such that a support member can be readily slidably received within said channel at all times, the second panel extending from the upper edge of said channel in a direction outwardly and away from said first panel at an acute angle thereto such that said second panel forms an inclined supporting surface for supporting a book or the like thereon in a convenient reading position.

3. A support fabricated from a single length of resilient sheet material bent upon itself to provide in its free form a first and a second panel interconnected along their adjacent edges by an open-ended, elongate channel which overlies said first panel and terminates in an open throat remote from and in spaced parallelism with the adjacent edge of said first panel such that a support member can be readily slidably received within said channel at all times, the second panel extending from the upper edge of said channel in a direction outwardly and away from said first panel, and a flat, rigid member slidably received within said channel at an acute angle thereto such that said second panel forms an inclined supporting surface for supporting a book or the like thereon in a convenient reading position.

4. A support fabricated from a single length of resilient sheet material bent to provide in its free form a first and a second flat panel resiliently interconnected along

their adjacent portions by an intermediate panel which extends upwardly from and in spaced relationship over the forward portion of the first panel, said intermediate panel defining an elongate, open-ended channel having an open throat remote from the forward portion of the first panel and at the forward portion of the second panel, said channel defining clamping means adapted to secure the support to means introduced into said channel.

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